SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: It may be possible that the figures might be wrong for West Bengal. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Question No. 342.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Mr. Minister, that Planning Commission document is secret, you are secretive even on economy...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

Maharashtra's share in Excise Duty on Electricity

*342. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:†
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Excise Duty of two paise per kw/h on electricity generated was levied by Government with effect from 1st March, 1978 as a part of the budget proposals for 1978-79;

(b) if so, how much amount was paid back to State Governments; and

(c) what was the share of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 906.17 crores was paid to the States during the period 1979-80 to 1984-85.

(c) The share of Maharashtra out of the above amount was Rs. 131.57 crores.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you whether it is not a fact that the Seventh Finance Commission recommended that for the years 1979-80 to 1983-84 the entire net proceeds on Union excise on generation of electricity should be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India to each State in an amount equal to the collection attributable to that State and the Government of India accepted this recommendation along with other recommendations. The Union Duties of Excise (Electricity Distribution) Act, 1980 prescribes the percentage of shares of the State in the proceeds from levy which is based more or less on the estimates of the net revenue furnished by the Seventh Finance Commission. Accordingly, I would like to ask one thing. For the period 1979-80 to 1983-84, Rs. 148.20 crores have been collected from the Maharashtra State. How much of that is paid back to the State and how much is remaining as arrears?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Madam, Deputy Chairman, in 1978 when this duty was imposed, it was a gross error of judgment on the part of that Government at that time that they did no visualise as to what would be the ramifications or the repercussions. Therefore, again, after some months, they referred this matter back to the Seventh Finance Commission to find out as to what should be the net devolution or attributable devolution. And therefore the Finance Commission evolved a formula and under that formula evolved by the Finance Commission the disbursement is being made. As a matter of fact, Rs. 13 crores are still recoverable from the State of Maharashtra for the period 1979—82, but we are not presently pressing it very much.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam, Deputy Chairman, there is a great deal of contradiction between the information which has been given by the Government of Maharashtra and that given by the Hon. Minister. Here the Maharashtra Government has written to the Government of India that Maharashtra was deprived of the electricity duty which was attributable to Maharashtra but paid through sources other than the State electricity boards, namely, the Tatas, the Tarapore and Maharashtra Electricity Board. Hence, the repeated representations made by the Government of Maharashtra to the Govenment of India for recovering the short payment of Rs. 38.55 crores. This is the letter written by the Maharashtra Government to the Union Government. In spite of all that no cognizance is taken. I would like to know what steps the Government is taking in this matter.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Madam, on the certified figures of C&AG for the year 1979-80 to 1981-82, as a matter of fact the Government of India's figure of duty collection on electricity generation from Maharashtra is Rs. 159.71 crores, Maharashtra Government says that their collection was only Rs. 148.20 crores. So, on the contrary, the Government of India's figures are very accurate. But Members would kindly appreciate that, just, for example, Tarapore, although the generation of electricity is in Maharashtra, the sharing of power is between Gujarat, Maharashtra, and so is the case in all other States, like north-eastern States where there are Central sector projects, joint sector projects and projects belonging to the private sector, like the Tatas. Therefore, the net collection could not be given and therefore the matter was referred to the Finance Commission and the Finance Commission after examining the total aspect what would be the devolution by way of net collection as well as what could be the devolution by way of attributable to a particular State, came to this figure, and on that line we are giving it to all the States. But I may inform the hon. Member that as per our figures certain sums are recoverable from the States because they are paid more, but even then we are not presently pressing, as I said before.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Tarapore and they are very much in Maharashtra and most of the power is going to Maharashtra and so from that point of view they have demanded this refund from the Tatas... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Question is not most of the power. Question is power consumed by different States from Tarapore which is also taken from Tarapore... (*Interruptions*). That is why the principle of attribution was explained by that Government at that very time.

डा० बापू कालदाते : उपसभापति महोदया, जो आज के वहां मुख्य मंत्री हैं वे 1978 में फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर थे जहां तक मुझे याद है । तो मैं सिर्फ एक ही सवाल पुछना चाहता हूं कि हमारी सरकार आपको कहे कि आपको पैसा देना है और आप हमको यहां सदन में कहें कि उनसे लेना है । तो क्या यह संभव नहीं है कि आप और वहां की सरकार बैठें एक बार इस को तय कर दें ताकि यह मसला बार-बार हमारे सामने न उठे ऐसी व्यवस्था क्या आप कर सकते हैं ?

श्री बी० के० गढवी : वैसे तो मैंने आपसे पहले कहा कि टोटल 97 करोड़ ख्तलिफ स्टेट्स से रिकवर करने का होता है जिसमें महाराष्ट्र से 13 करोड़ होता हैं लेकिन फिलहाल हम उनके ऊपर तकाजा नहीं कर रहे हैं, यही तनीमत हो चाहिए ।

डा० बापू कालदाते : हमको कोई ऐतराज नहीं है, लेकिन आप क्या कर रहे है ? चीफ मिनिस्टर और आप मिलकर क्यों फैसला नहीं कर रहे है ?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam Deputy Chairperson, if there is some kind of a misunderstanding or some kind of an error in calculations and if this question is to be permanently solved, for that purpose should we not take the services of the C&AG of India so that this matter can be permanently solved. The Hon. Minister said, we have to take Rs. 13 crores from the Maharashtra Government, Maharashtra Government says, no, we have to take Rs. 37 crores from the Government of India. When that is the position, why don't you refer this question to the C&AG of India for final settlement? What is the difficulty?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: So far as Comptroller and Auditor General of India is concerned, we base our allocations on the certified figures. So far, certified figures available to us are only from 1979-80 to 1981-82. The balance is still to come and when this would come, we would try to sort out if there is any genuine dispute between the States and the Centre in devolution of this collected Central excise on electricity generation.

SHR A. G. KULKARNI: Madam, the hon. Minister has taken the plea that the Maharashtra Government figures supplied to Members of Parliament are not correct, and on the contrary, the Central Government has taken the figure of Rs. 159 crore etc., as the share of Maharashtra State. I do not know whether my State Government is weak in arithmetic or the Comptroller & Auditor General and the Finance Ministry are very strong in arithmetic. But the point remains that here the hon. Minister is trying to convince us that the share has not been proportionately taken by the Maharashtra Government. Now, Maharashtra State Government has complained that the excise due to the State Government is from the Tata power generated and consumed in Maharashtra only and Tarapur power generated and consumed only in Maharashtra State. You are taking the plea that we are sharing it with Gujarat. Yes, we are sharing with Gujarat; but the share of Maharashtra State in Tarapur power station—in power generated and consumed by Maharashtra industry and agriculture—is Rs. 7.53 crore which is due to them.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put your supplementary.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am doing it. Perhaps, you are not following it. I am actually putting the question. I am not like my friend, Mr. Upendra or somebody. I know my limitations, how to behave and ask a question. So, Maharashtra State claim from Tarapur is on the electricity consumed by the industry and agriculture in Maharashtra, and that amounts to Rs. 7.53 crore, and from Tata, which is all along avoiding—Tata is not taking cognizance of what we are taking—it comes to about Rs. 30 crores. So, the total is about Rs. 38 crores. If you are really taking the figure of Rs. 159 crores, you deduct Rs. 11 crores. I don't mind. But balance you explain. So, I want to know whether the Central Government in the Ministry of Finance is prepared to accept the balance figure, less Rs. 11 crores, because you have exaggeratted the claim. Are you prepared to do it? Madam, Maharashtra now is in need of this money because of drought; agriculture there is suffering. The Government has already decided to help in this situation. You must say, for Heaven's sake, that you are giving this money; otherwise, you have no claim to say that you are helping drought-affected State.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: So far as assistance to the States on account

of drought is concerned, that is altogether a different and a separate matter. I would assure the hon. Member and this House that even the Prime Minister has taken a pledge to combat the drought situation on *war-footing and the Govern*ment of India would not be lacking...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Don't quote the Prime Minister. He is doing it . But you are not. Merely citing Prime Minister is not going to help the State. You do something.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We understand his dilemma.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I very much appreciate the expertise of the hon. Member. But as I stated earlier, when this duty was imposed—even at the cost of repetition I would say —in 1978 when the Central Government imposed a duty of 2 paise per KWH excise, it was a gross error of judgment to understand its ramifications and its repercussions and, therefor...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Whose fault it is? You have accepted the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: Madam, is there any rule permitting a running commentary?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: The Chair has said that there is no rule permitting a running commentary. (*Interruptions*) Madam, the Government referred the matter to the Finance Commission. The Seventh Finance Commission recommended that during each of the years 1979-80 to 1983-84, the net proceeds of the union excise duty on generation of *electricity should be paid to each* State in an amount equal to the collection in or attributable to that State. To give effect to the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission, the Union Duty of Excise (Electricity Distribution) Act, 1980, was passed. Under section 3 of the Act, during each of the five years commencing from 1-4-79, the distributable amount of Union duty of excise levied and collected in that year has to paid to each State in accordance with the percentage noted against each by the Finance Commission and, accordingly, we have paid. To correct the hon. Member's figure, I would say, from Maharashtra, in 1979-80, the collection was Rs. 30.86 crores; 1980-81—Rs. 27.27 crores; 1981-82—Rs. 27.11 crores; 1982-83—Rs. 27.93 crores; 1983-84—Rs. 36.84 crores and in 1984-85, based on revised estimates, it was Rs. 9.70 crores. Out of this, Rs. 18.39 crores were paid in 1979-80. In all, it comes to Rs. 131.57 crores. This has already been paid to the Maharashtra Government on the basis of the percentage as noted by the Finance Commission and provided in the Act. The report of the Finance Commission was accepted by the Government. It was also accepted by the State Government. It is not only in the case of Maharashtra. There are other areas. Not only Tarapur in Maharashtra. We have DVC, Singrauli, Narora atomic power station, Rajasthan atomic power station. There are power projects all over the country. Not only in one State. But more than one State is getting the benefit and power from other States. Therefore, the question of fixing the amount and devolution attributable on percentage basis was taken up by the Government in 1978 and it was referred to the Finance Commission. As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission, we have paid. Therefore, although as I said earlier, we have paid a little more, we are not pressing so much for recovery at the present time. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I object to it. *All* along, we have been raising the question whether the power consumed by the Tatas was taken into consideration. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, I will rather advise you to go and meet the Minister in his chamber and discuss with him because this cannot be sorted out during Question Hour here. It seems, there is a difference of opinion. It is better you sit with him and sort it out. This is not the hour to debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I will give him a very good cup of coffee in my chamber. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That advice I take. But this is a book published by the Maharashtra State. If there is any difference between the State Government and the Central Government, it is your duty to reconcile it and not the duty of the hon. Member to approach you and sort it out. I am not going to approach you in your chamber. Don't offer tea etc. I do not want. *(Interruptions)*

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : उपसभापति महोदया, महाराष्ट्र सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार में विवाद का मूल मुद्दा महत्वपूर्ण रूप से तारापुर और टाटा से निर्मित और उपयोगित बिजली के संबंध में है। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा, मैं पूरे महाराष्ट्र के राज्य विद्युत निगम की ओर से नहीं पूछ रहा हूं, केवल तारापुर और टाटा की ओर से निर्मित और उपयोगित बिजली का कितना बकाया बनता है और उसमें से कितना दिया है और कितना उनके पास बाकी है या आपके पास बाकी है?

श्री बी० के० गढवी : यह प्रोजेक्ट वाइज फीगर्स कि प्रत्येक प्रोजेक्ट से कितना आया, वह फीगर तो फिलहाल मेरे पास नहीं है। मगर टोटल फीगर्स कितना महाराष्ट्र से कलेक्ट किया है उसके फीगर्स हैं। प्रोजेक्टवाइज देने का कोई मतलब भी नहीं है क्योंकि 1980 में जब एक्ट पास हो गया तो उस एक्ट के तहत ही हम स्टेट्स को दे रहे हैं। उसमें प्रोजेक्टवाइज का सवाल नहीं उठता है।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : महोदया, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि कानून के अनुसार निर्मित बिजली पर पैसा देना है या उपयोगित बिजली पर पैसा देना है?

श्री बी० के० गढवी : कानून के अनुसार जो पावर जनरेशन है, power generated subject to certain exceptions given for in house consumption agriculture and other areas. There have been four-five exceptions. उनको छोड़कर जो निर्मित होती है उसके ऊपर एक्साइज ड्यूटी निकलती है।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : इसका गुजरात से संबंध ही नहीं है। अगर निर्मित बिजली पर देते हैं तो तारापुर और टाटा से जो भी निर्मित बिजली है, तारापुर और टाटा महाराष्ट्र में है और उनके द्वारा निर्मित बिजली अगर गुजरात में जाती है या कर्नाटक में जाती है ... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभापति : आपका सवाल हो गया ... **(व्यवधान)** .. आर्डर प्लीज।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Minister is confused. He is confusing the issue.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: We agree with this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Be quiet now. *(Interruptions)* Order please. *(Interruptions)* That is exactly what I said. Mr. Kulkarni and other Members can join and discuss with Mr. Minister in his chamber. It seems there is some confusion, whether it is on the power generated or on the power used. *(Interruptions)* I am not asking you. You please sit down. I am not asking you about the confusion.

Yes, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, your time is up now.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : महोदया, मेरा प्रश्न अधूरा रह गया। महोदया, मैं इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या निर्मित बिजली पर देते हैं या उपयोगित बिजली पर पर देते हैं? निर्मित पर देते हैं तो टाटा और तारापुर महाराष्ट्र में हैं ....

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : उपसभापति महोदया, सम्मानित सदस्यों की भावना को देखते हुए, उसका आदर करते हुए मैं अपने सम्मानित सहयोगी के साथ महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री और वित्त मंत्री को आमंत्रित करूंगा और उनसे इस बारे में पूरा विचार विमर्श करूंगा।

Setting up of a Biotechnology Information Network

*343. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a biotechnology information network in the country; and

(b) if so, what would be its main functions and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Biotechnology Information Network will be to provide a computer based system for storage retrieval and dissemination of information on various aspects which may be helpful in research and development in biotechnology. The functions of the network include the following:

(i) to generate information relevant to specific areas, structure the information into accessible form and make it available to the users;

(ii) to develop software packages specific to user needs; and

(iii) to conduct training courses for manpower development and to promote awareness.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Madam, I would like to know the places where these centres are being set up and what will be the total investment on this project, including foreign exchage. Are we going to receive any technical and financial assistance from foreign countries also?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: We are going to establish these centres at 8 places and these centres will be established in institutions and colleges and places like that. The names are there. I would not like to read out but give the same to the hon. Members. These centres will provide information to 23 other institutions. The amount involved in establishing these centres is about Rs. 13 crores and we are not going to receive any foreign aid or assistance in this. We are ourselves doing this.

SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: What are the priority areas in the field of biotechnology which are proposed to be covered by these centres what effect will it have on agriculture, animal husbandry and health, including preventive medicine?

SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: Biotechnology is one of the very important technologies the world today. It is going to be helpful to us in agriculculture, in the areas of health, in industry and in many other areas. Initially, we are emphasizing on biotechnology which is relevant to the health. We want to emphasize on the study of biotechnology which will be useful to agriculture but at the same time, we are trying to